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Private Data Wire Rules Out Hiring Ex-CIA Agents

By WILLIAM J. EATON, *Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON—A new global information service for business will hire reporters and scholars as its overseas correspondents, a spokesman for the firm said Tuesday.

The spokesman, David Kingsley, said former CIA agents will not be hired for such jobs, although former CIA analysts may be retained to work at the company's headquarters in Arlington, Va., on a high-speed computer rivaling the one used by the CIA.

The founder of the firm, Washington Publisher Anthony Stout, bristled at any comparison between his company, International Reporting Information Systems, and the U.S. intelligence agency.

'No CIA Connection'

"We have no connection with the CIA," Stout said in an interview. "The last time I saw a spy was in the movies. My credentials speak for themselves."

Kingsley said the service will hire news reporters and scholars for 96 correspondents' posts overseas.

Stout said he would hire "the best, most reliable and most proven political reporters currently in the business" on a part-time basis to file reports on developments of interest to business executives.

"Intelligence is the secret collection of information for secret purposes," Stout said. "This will be the open collection of information for public purposes."

\$25,000 Fee

Anyone who wants to pay for the service, he said, at an average charge of \$25,000 a year, will be able to subscribe and obtain the information in the computer from a terminal in his office.

"This will provide dependable and objective information that the business community is very anxious to have," Stout said. "It will be a new international news service for business."

The computer at the system's headquarters will be able to handle 10,000 messages of 500 words each,

Kingsley said. It was designed by Lee Feldman, a 27-year-old consultant who has done work for the CIA, Kingsley added.

Former British Prime Minister Edward Heath was hired by the system to head an "international advisory council" that also includes former World Bank President Robert S. McNamara.

Stout said the two men, along with others to be appointed later, would serve as ombudsmen to help assure the accuracy and responsibility of the information service.

Appointees for other regions of the world, Stout said, would "fight off the claim that this is just another westernized news operation" with a bias against less-developed nations.

Stout is a founder of Government Research Corp., publishers of the *National Journal*, a weekly devoted to the reporting and analysis of national issues and actions by the federal government.